

Claims

1. A bottle stopper device for use with a bottle comprising:
a cylindrical body formed of a flexible, elastic, resilient material and having
a first end, a second end, a first cylindrical section, and a second cylindrical
5 section;
the first cylindrical section having a length and adapted to be inserted into
an opening of a bottle in sealing engagement with the bottle;
the second cylindrical section having a length and disposed adjacent the
first cylindrical section for extending above the opening of the bottle when the first
10 cylindrical section is inserted in sealing engagement with the bottle;
an air passageway disposed adjacent and extending longitudinally along
substantially at least the length of said first cylindrical section and along the
internal periphery of said cylindrical body; and
a visual indicator disposed on an outer surface of said second cylindrical
15 section for identifying the relative location of said air passageway with respect to
said visual indicator.
2. The device of claim 1 wherein said visual indicator is positioned on
the second end and on the second cylindrical section of said cylindrical body.
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3. The device of claim 1 wherein said visual indicator comprises a
spout.
4. The device of claim 3 wherein said spout is an anti-drip spout.
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5. The device of claim 3 wherein said spout comprises a mouth having
a slope of about 50 degrees relative to said cylindrical body.
6. The device of claim 3 wherein said spout has an outermost extent
30 of about 0.10 inches from the second cylindrical section.

7. The device of claim 1 wherein said visual indicator comprises a protuberance.

8. The device of claim 1 wherein said visual indicator comprises an indentation.

9. The device of claim 1 wherein said visual indicator comprises a marking having a color different from the color of said cylindrical body.

10. The device of claim 3 wherein said visual indicator is radially spaced from said air passageway by at least 120°.

11. The device of claim 10 wherein said visual indicator is radially spaced from said air passageway about 180°.

12. The device of claim 3 further comprising a filter disposed within and integrally formed within said cylindrical body.

13. The device of claim 12 wherein the filter is of the same material as the cylindrical body.

14. The device of claim 3 further comprising a cap insertable in sealing engagement with the second end of said cylindrical body, said cap having an overlapping longitudinal extent that overlaps with the second end when in sealing engagement therewith, said cap being attached to said cylindrical body, and wherein the spout has a longitudinal extent less than the overlapping longitudinal extent of the cap.

15. The device of claim 14 wherein a portion of the cap is insertable in the second end of the cylindrical body, further comprising an integral circumferential sealing ring on one of the cap and the cylindrical body and, on the other of the cap and cylindrical body, a circumferential sealing groove

complementary to the sealing ring, the spout being located above the circumferential sealing ring and groove.

5 16. The device of claim 15 wherein the circumferential sealing ring is on the cap.

10 17. The device of claim 14 wherein the cap is integrally attached to said cylindrical body by a flexible strand of material extending from the cylindrical body to the cap at a predetermined location on the circumference of the cylindrical body and radially spaced at least about 120° from the spout.

15 18. A method of pouring a liquid from a bottle comprising:
 inserting a bottle stopper device into a bottle, said bottle stopper comprising:
 a cylindrical body formed of a flexible, elastic, resilient material and having a first end, a second end, a first cylindrical section, and a second cylindrical section;
 the first cylindrical section having a length and adapted to be inserted into an opening of a bottle in sealing engagement with the bottle;
20 the second cylindrical section having a length and disposed adjacent the first cylindrical section for extending above the opening of the bottle when the first cylindrical section is inserted in sealing engagement with the bottle;
 an air passageway disposed adjacent and extending longitudinally along substantially at least the length of said first cylindrical section and along the
25 internal periphery of said cylindrical body; and
 a visual indicator disposed on an outer surface of said second cylindrical section for identifying the relative location of said air passageway with respect to said visual indicator;
 verifying a location on said cylindrical body of said visual indicator and the
30 relative location of said air passageway relative to said visual indicator; and
 pouring contents from said bottle such that the air passageway of said bottle stopper device is maintained in a relatively upward facing position.

19. The method according to claim 18 wherein the visual indicator includes a spout.

5 20. A method for manufacturing a bottle stopper device for use with a bottle comprising:

 providing a cylindrical body formed of a flexible, elastic, resilient material and having a first end, a second end, a first cylindrical section, and a second cylindrical section;

10 providing the first cylindrical section with a length and the first cylindrical section adapted to be inserted into an opening of a bottle in sealing engagement with the bottle;

 providing the second cylindrical section with a length and disposing the second cylindrical section adjacent the first cylindrical section such that the
15 second cylindrical section extends above the opening of the bottle when the first cylindrical section is inserted in sealing engagement with the bottle;

 providing an air passageway disposed adjacent and extending longitudinally along substantially at least the length of said first cylindrical section and along the internal periphery of said cylindrical body; and

20 providing a visual indicator disposed on an outer surface of said second cylindrical section for identifying the relative location of said air passageway with respect to said visual indicator.

 21. The method according to claim 20 wherein said visual indicator
25 includes a spout.